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THE EARLY WORD PROCESSORS

Research Report 3



Carroll H.
Blanchard Jr.

State
University
at Farmingdale



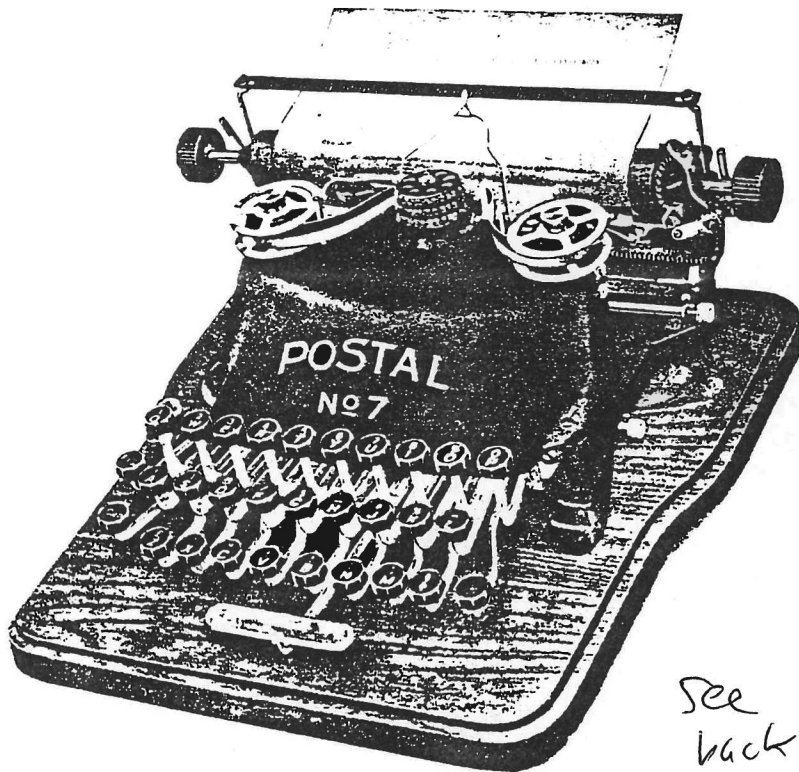
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170 OTTAWA ST., LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845

1981

THE \$25 TYPE-WHEEL, 1906

The success of the 'cheap' Blickensderfer typewriter was sure to invite a lot of imitators. The most successful of these was a machine called the POSTAL to capitalize on the 'need for a machine to produce letters fast for the mail' and to infer some connection with the U. S. Post Office--none existed, of course, but the name suggested some official sanction. The little machine worked well and was an immediate success.

The 1902 Model No. 3 sold for \$25 and sold so well the Postal Company found it necessary to get larger quarters after their first year's manufacturing in New York City. They moved to Norwalk, Connecticut. During the next few years they brought out Model 5 which sold for \$35 and Model 7 which sold for \$50. The two new models, the company explained, were to 'cater to the trade that wanted not only a good writing machine, but a luxurious one with all the latest improvements and frills, such as ABSOLUTELY visible writing, two-color ribbon and uniform touch.' The Postal Company had a large variety of types for all languages available which were interchangeable on all their machines.



See
back

WHERE'S THE POSTAL?

The POSTAL sold well in the years prior to World War I, but it was afflicted with that basic flaw of all the manual typewriters based on John Pratt's TYPE-WHEEL design: It was slow! (You had to wait for the wheel to turn, then strike, then return to the original position, before you could strike your next key.)

POSTAL TYPEWRITER

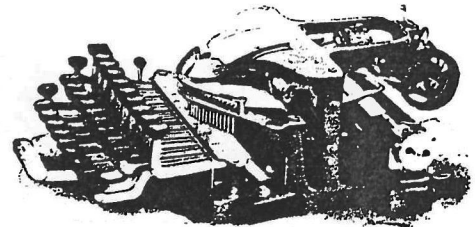
\$25

Honest in price, service, material and workmanship—the only real typewriter at low price. It combines universal keyboard, strong manifolding, mimeograph stencil cutting, visible writing, interchangeable type and prints from ribbon. Imperfect alignment impossible.

Will stand hardest wear and is practically accident proof.

Write for our booklet and installment plan.

Agents Wanted



Postal Typewriter Co.

Department D

Office and Factory: Norwalk, Conn.

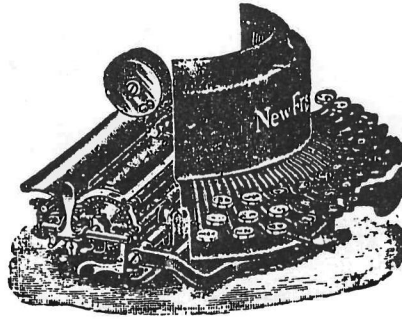
New York City Salesroom: 1364 Broadway

After 1920, the 'flood' of much faster, type-bar portables caused the 'cheap' POSTAL typewriter to disappear along with the Crandall and so many of the machines based on the John Pratt design—in fact, machines based on this TYPE-WHEEL design would not become popular again until electric and electronic mechanisms were available to turn the TYPE-WHEEL at a rate fast enough to overcome that 'basic flaw' of this design.

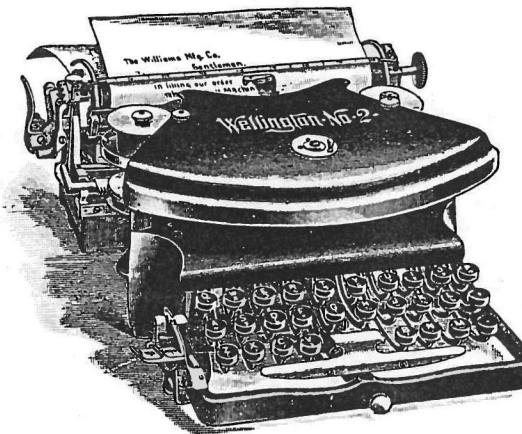
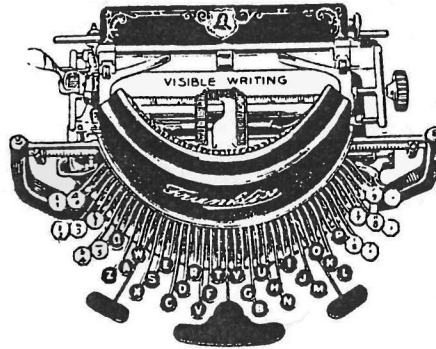
TWO MEN FOR LESS NOISE:

Two men, W. P. Kidder of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and C. C. Colby of Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, had the idea that the typewriter ought to be quieter than it was—noiseless in fact! The two men were good friends, and starting in 1891, they worked on the idea together. Kidder has already won a wide reputation as a skilled inventor of printing presses, and he had also invented two typewriters, the Franklin and the Wellington. At the time he and Colby met for the first time, Kidder was starting manufacture of the Wellington. Colby agreed to manufacture and sell that typewriter throughout the British Empire—a big market in those days—as well as on the Continent of Europe; but he would use the name 'Empire' rather than Wellington on the machine. From the first meeting, the two men found a common interest in designing a 'noiseless' typewriter.

From 1896 to 1904, the Noiseless typewriter began to take concrete form. During this period, Kidder produced several models of a pressure printing machine which had its structural basis in toggle-cam action. While these showed steady progress, it became clear that the mechanical difficulties involved were such as to make a heavy demand upon both time and money.



THE NEW FRANKLIN



Only \$60.
That Saves You \$40.

GUARANTEED EQUAL TO
ANY AND SUPERIOR TO ALL
IN SOME IMPORTANT
FEATURES

Visible Writing
Permanent Alignment
Portability, Durability

Sent anywhere on ten days'
trial, simply address as below

The Canadian Pacific Railway purchased one of these machines in 1895 for the Vice President's use while on the train. A month later they bought another. They have continued buying them ever since until now they have over 230 of these machines in use, and they buy no other typewriter. A machine that will stand the use and abuse of such service must fulfill every demand. John Wanamaker sold 500 Wellingtons in one year.

The Williams Manufacturing Company, Limited
Box 5, Plattsburgh, New York

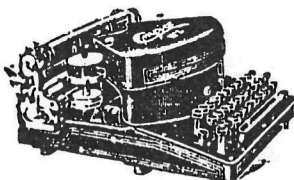
Agents wanted in several
South and Central
American
Countries for

The Empire Typewriter

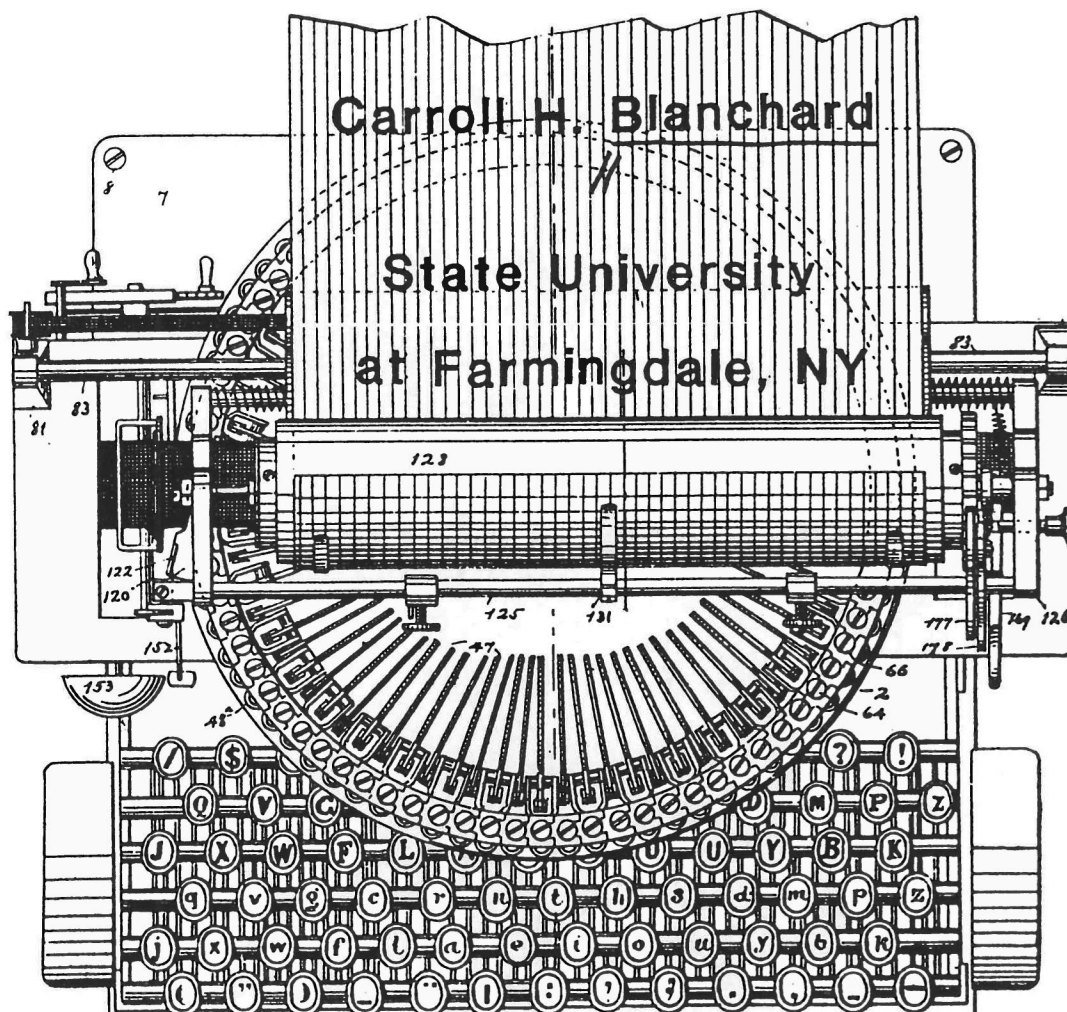
Over 8,000 have been supplied to the
British Government

Very Liberal Terms to Energetic Sole Agents
RELIABLE—EFFICIENT—DURABLE

THE EMPIRE TYPEWRITER CO., Ltd., 77 Queen Victoria St.
London, E.C. 4, England



WORD PROCESSING: KEYBOARDS, KINESTHESIS & WOMEN.

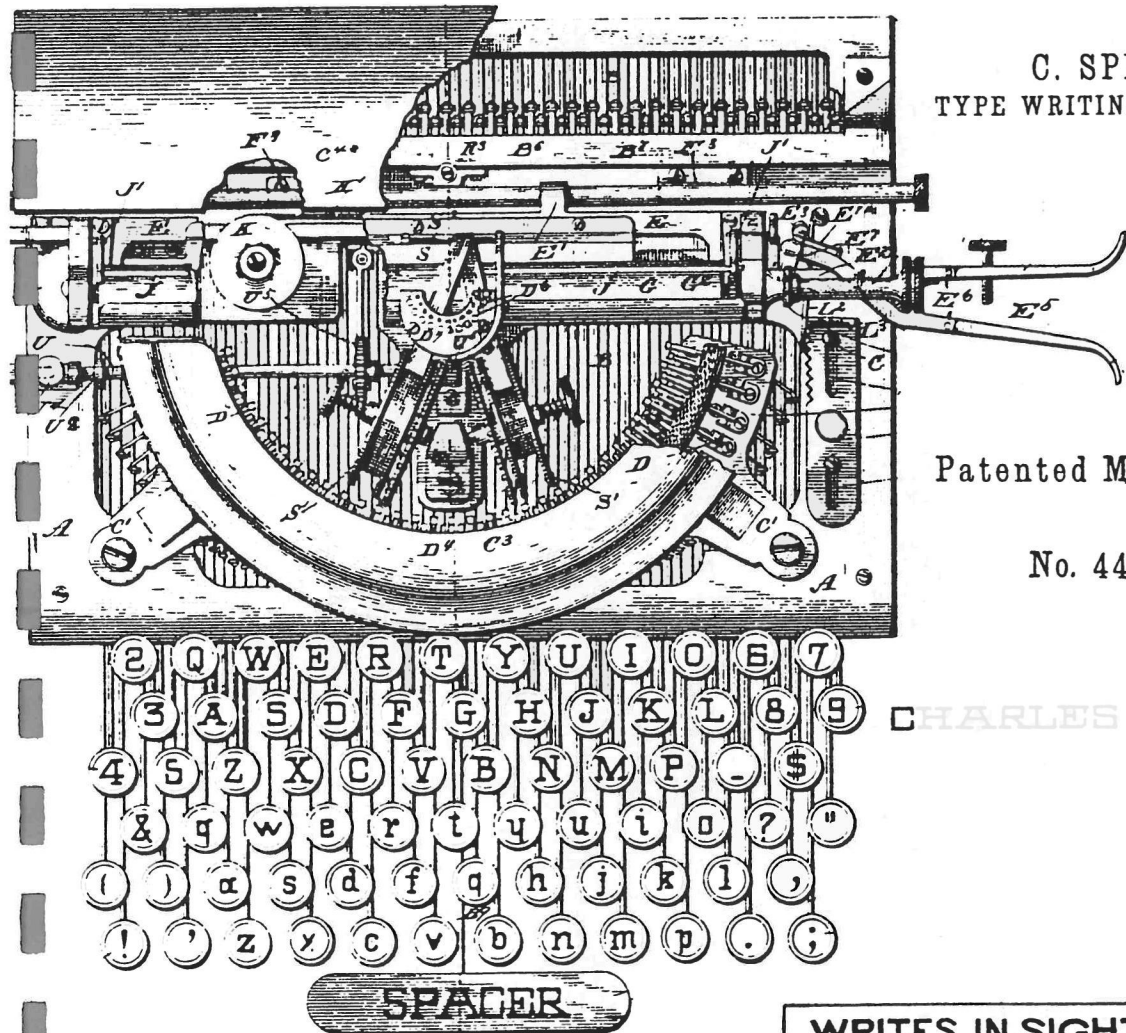


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Research Report 4

1979

THE FRONT DOWN-STRIKE:



C. SPIRO.
TYPE WRITING MACHINE.

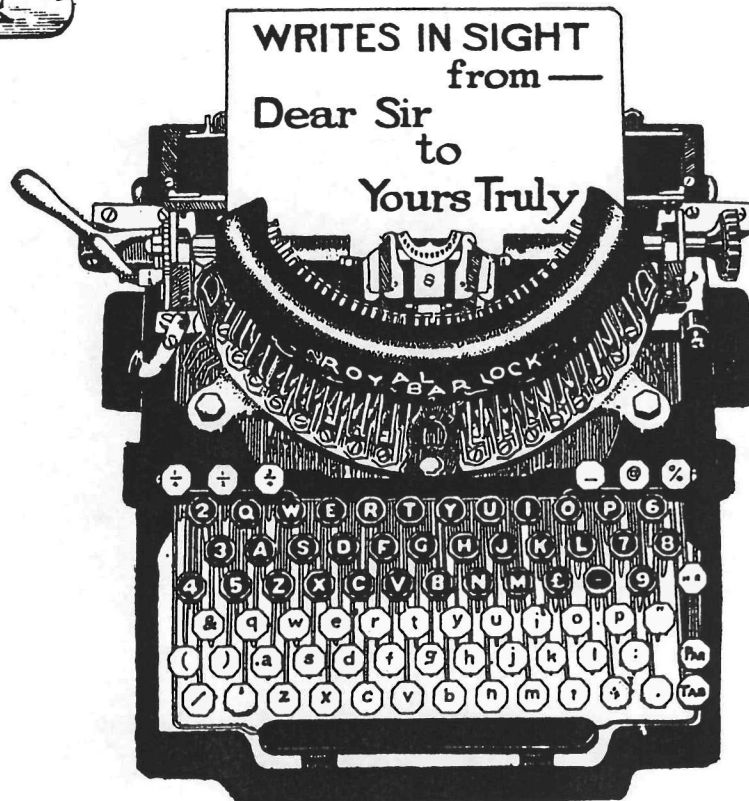
Patented Mar. 3. 1891.

No. 447,438.

Inventor
CHARLES SPIRO.

BAR- LOCK

1895



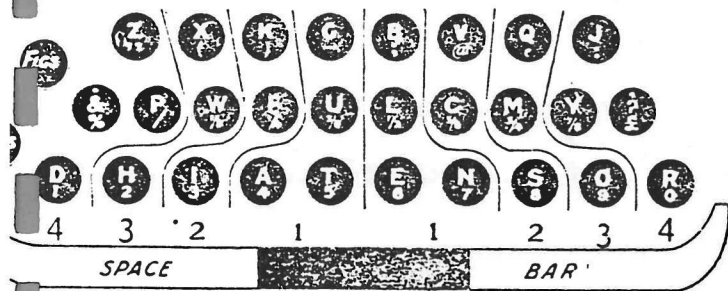
THE FINGERING SYSTEMS:

of the double keyboard typewriters--Yost Barlock--suggested different fingering systems for the users of their typewriters. The typists on Oliver and Williams typewriters were given a different system of fingering by these manufacturers, although they did put the 'Universal' key on their typewriters. The Blickensderfer wheel machine used a different keyboard arrangement with a different fingering system.

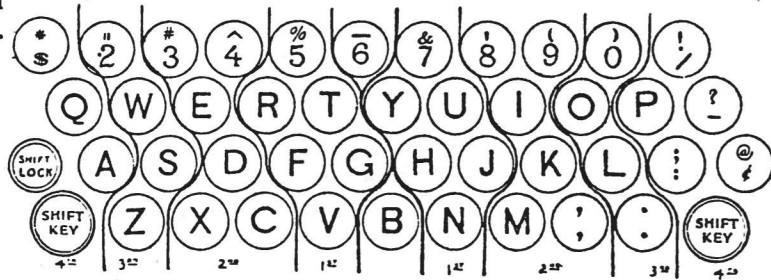
1910

BLICKENSDERFER:

Blickensderfer Scientific Keyboard.

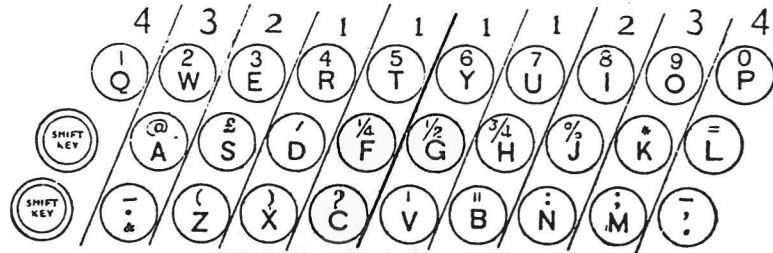


WILLIAMS:



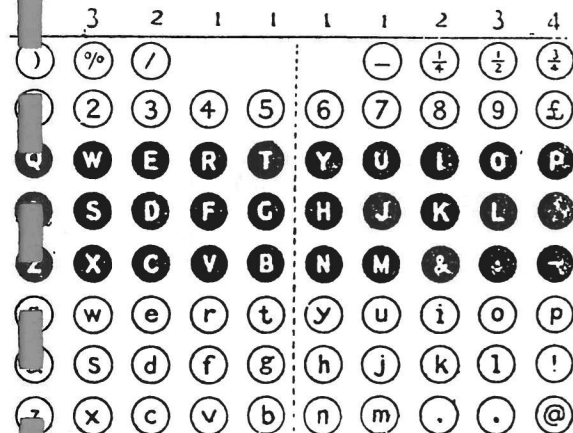
THE WILLIAMS KEYBOARD, AS USED IN AMERICA.

OLIVER:



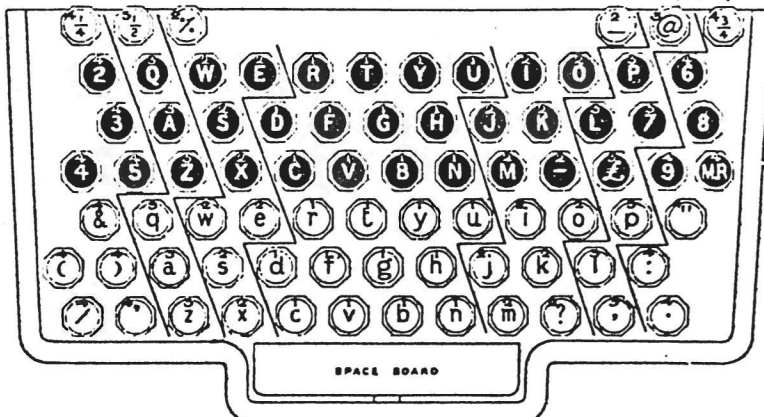
THE OLIVER SYSTEM OF FINGERING, SUGGESTED BY THE EDITOR OF THE OLIVER MAGAZINE

YOST:



YOST SCHEME OF FINGERING FOR TOUCH TYPING.

ROYAL BARLOCK:



THE FOUR-FINGER METHOD, RECOMMENDED FOR THE ROYAL BARLOCK.